battles in history.

ITALIAN NOTES.

AMUSEMENTS AND FINANCE IN NAPLES—TRANS-CENDENTAL BANKING—WALL-ST. OUTDONE —BEGGARS ON HORSEBACK—CRASH—RUIN— ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT—GRAND FINALE.

Naples, Feb. 17 .- The tittle theater of San Carlino, in Naples, which is devoted mainly to broad farce and humorous caricature, is the favorite place of amusement with the mercurial populace of this gay and impulsive city. It owes its success to the facility with which it catches up the trifles of the day, and the glaring colors which it employs to reproduce them for the entertainment of the crowd. The stranger in Naples would no more fail to visit this temple of the pedestrian Muse, than he would neglect a sight of the sculptures of the Vatican and the Capitol in Rome, A few evenings since I made one of a party of friends to enjoy the fun and frolic of this characteristic expression of Neapolitan life. The mass of the audience consisted of the lively young people whom you meet in the streets and shops of the city, with no painful formality of manners, and not the slightest affectation of an elaborate toilette, but with a jolly good nature beaming out of their black eyes, and showing the confirmed habit of taking the world as it comes. During the principal performance of the evening, which was an illustration of the brigandage and other amiable features of Italian society, there was no remarkable display of interest, but the moment the after-piece was announced, it was plain that there was something in the wind, and the curiosity of the spectators seemed screwed up to the highest pitch of excitement. The piece was a burlesque on a novel system of private banking which for several months past has gained a no less suspicious notoriety in Southern Italy than the operations of the virtuous speculators in Gold and Eric have enjoyed in America. On the rising of the curtain, the eye was greeted with the spectacle of three snug little edifices, embellished with showy signs, and covered with placards proclaiming that they were banks of deposit and loan, at which money was received at fabulons rates of interest, placing the investor of even small sums on the sure and speedy road to fortune. One label was inscribed "Ten per cent paid here;" another "Twenty per cent;" a third "Fifty per cent guaranteed on all Deposits;" while another displayed the illusive motto "TEN on a thousand," containing the nearest approach to a modicum of truth in the whole programme. Swarms of officious runners, or collectors, were urging the crowd to invest their little earnings, tempting them by the most gorgeous promises, and revealing the prospect of unlimited maccaroni and Sicily wine, without lifting a finger to work. As an offset to these enchanting visions, a long line of eager, hunger-bitten faces, besieged the doors of the banks. claiming the payment of their interest, but departing fempty-handed, and muttering curses, deep and lond, on the crafty wolves that had made them their prey. To crown the scene a band of sturdy policemen brandished their clubs with incredible saligence on the heads of the crowd in general, knocking down collectors, depos itors, and bankers right and left indiscriminately and having the field in their own exclusive posses sion. The curtain fell on the multitude of indigpant investors, whistling for their money, while the "bloated capitalists," stripped of their gains, and reduced to poverty, returned in their shirt-sleeves and working dress to their primitive employment of peddling and picking stones in the street. The performance was received with a universal chuckle of delight, showing that it was a true picture of nature, and touched a chord of popular sympathy to the

It was not long before the mimic representationof the stage found their counterpart in the reality of Neapolitan life. During the whole of the present week, a profound excitement has pervaded the city. Vague rumors of an approaching crash had been current for some time, but the worst has now come in a form more terrible than the most dismal forebodings had anticipated. Many families are prostrated in utter pecuniary ruln. The heads of prominent business houses, accused of a series of systematic frauds, have been thrown into prison. The hard earnings of the laboring classes have been squandered in fruitless speculations, leaving them in helpless misery have scraped a few thousand francs together, are made penniless by investing their means, on the lure of exorbitant interest, with these swindling bankers. The worst cases are those of persons in the middle classes of life, who were in the receipt of comfortable incomes, not sufficient indeed for purposes of luxury and estentation, but ample for the moderate wants of Italian fragality. who were tempted to place their whole capital in the hands of the fradulent bankers and by the erash of the system, are now reduced to abject poverty, without the habit or the power of self-sup port which in our own country deprives a reverse of fortune of its worst terrors. The chief operator in these transactions, Guglielmo

Ruffo Scilla, commenced his career within one or two years past, meeting with such apparent success, that he was speedily followed by a host of imitators. He is said to be a man of highly respectable connections.-I have heard that he belongs to a noble aristocratic family-but I don't know how true that may be-at all events, he has borne, until recently, a perfectly unblemished reputation. It was his cus tom, in the first instance, to receive deposits from his personal friends and acquaintances, allowing a certain advance on the usual rate of interest, but holding out no extravagant temptations for investment. The news spread that the Ruffo Scilla Bank offered unnsually favorable terms to depositors, and business soon began to pour in with an unexpected rush. Scilla had no legitimate employment for the funds thus accumulated in his hands; he was no army contractor, no builder of railways, no jobber of stocks; but simply a money-lender; the proceeds from this source speedily became inadequate to meet the interest on the deposits, and he adopted the system, on which the whole movement was founded, of paying the interest of one depositor from the principal of another, and appropriating the surplus to his own use. As this game demanded the perpetual replenishment of his funds, he fell into the practice of employing collectors, as they were called, for the purpose of soliciting investments. These fellows soon formed a little financial army of their own, Being well acquainted with the system of their principal, it could not but occur to them that the trick might be made as profitable to themselves as to their employer. They had got a taste of blood; they knew the haunts of the victims; they were familiar with their exposure and their weaknesses ; and it was natural that they should prefer to hunt for themselves, instead of remaining the jackalls for the lion, who was sure to take the fattest of the prey for his own share. From menial positions in mercantile houses, from the dregs of the business world, even from the wharves and the streets, these chevaliers of industry crowded into the slippery paths of speculative finance. Opening their private banking-houses-with very moderate appointments, to be sure, a desk and counter often being the whole furniture of the establishment-they spread their seductive snares in the way of the indiscreet aspirant for sudden wealth. The business extended like wildfire ; scarcely a great street in the city but was infested with the nets and birdlime of the eager lowlers, which were soon fluttering with the wounded pigeons and lame ducks which had fallen

Of course this state of things could not last long. The row of bricks that rested on one another must tumble soon. For some time past the police have kept a strict eye on the "ring," and occasional arrests have been made, but it was not until the pres-

the air with smoke and fragments of the unsea worthy ship, and covering the ground with the re mains of rained victims.

The first intimation that the hour of the final crisis had struck was on the morning of last Sunday (Feb. 13), when the civil authorities were informed that Signor Ruffo Scilla was about to issue a manifesto to the effect that he was forced to stop payment. The gingerly terms in which he announced the event may be taken as a model by unfortunate financiers. 'As my payments have extraordinarily increased, and the deposits with me have diminished, it has become necessary to demand more time for reim bursements." Upon being pressed by the Govern ment officers to exhibit the state of his affairs, Ruffo Scilla admitted that his liabilities amounted to 40,000, 000 francs, while he had scarcely 1,000,000 in his bank, leaving the enormous deficit of 39,000,000 francs (nearly \$8,000,000). The examination of Scilla brought many facts to light, which, if they had transpired three or four months ago, it is said, would have saved numerous victims of the fraud, and prevented an untold amount of misery. His confession have not yet been fully made public, but it is under stood they led at once to the adoption of decisive measures in regard to the other bankers. Their places of business were forthwith entered by the police, who took possession of their books and papers seized whatever money was found in the banks, and arrested some twenty or more of these exemplary in dividuals. The scene is described as one of a truly touching character. An immense crowd gathered before the doors. Among them were seen decrepi old men, women with haggard faces, and hard handed laborers, who had just become aware of the ruin that had befallen them, and who stood there in agony and tears, the living images of desolation.

The excitement continues with little abatement of intensity up to this time. Since the crash on Sun day, several additional arrests have taken place, the whole number at present amounting to thirty-one Next to Ruffo Scilla, the most extensive operator was Giuseppe Costa, the sum of whose liabilities has not yet been announced, but it is estimated at not less than 8,000,000 francs. At the time of the explosion there was found in his bank only a little more than 12,000 francs. He had a previous agreement, it seems, with Seilla, that in case of a run on the banks they would stand by each other. The crowd collected before his bank on Monday morning angrily demanding the restoration of their deposits With the small sum at his command, it was difficult for him to keep the furious multitude at bay. After making them wait more than two hours, under the pretense that the key of his cash-box was broken the clerks began to disgorge slowly to the ravenous depositors. In the mean time he had sent to Seilla for the promised aid, who returned the cheering reply that as he had only a few thousand francs in paper, and a small reserve in specie, he could do nothing. Costa then sent a second time, and even went in person to Scilla, and thus succeeded in getting a certain amount in gold, with which he com menced payment at a loss of three per cent. But this went only a little way, when he was compelled to stop short, and he is now reposing on his laurels in the public prison.

Among the collectors, or runners, from the better classes of society, who have been drawn into the conspiracy, and who are now in jail, is a Neapolitan nobleman, Prince Rocca, and a Catholic priest, the Reverend Luciano Dionisio, pastor of the church of Montecalvario in Naples. The whole amount of eash that has thus far been seized in the different banks by the police is about 3,000,000 francs, which is held in trust for the benefit of the depositors, but which is but a flea-bite, compared with the enormity of the obligations, which are supposed to amount at east to 60,000,000.

The frauds and speculations which have been conducted in America on a scale of such magnificent villainy have scarcely yet occasioned so much per sonal distress and social suffering as these compara tively trivial operations of financial scoundrelism The whole city of Naples feels the shock as if it were a consuming eruption of Vesnvius. From the poor washerwoman in her miserable cabin to the proudest lady of fashion in her sparkling equipage on the Ri viere di Chiaja, a pang has been felt like the bitter ness of death. Nor has the extent of the evil as ye been completely revealed. A feeling of universal distrust has been called forth; no man's credit apbasis it is hardly too mus to say that a jar has been given to the very founda tions of society in Southern Italy. I shall watch the result with intense interest, and you may possibly hear from me again on the subject.

DEY GOODS.

PRICES OF 1861 COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1870-TRADE IMPROVING-A MORE STEADY FEELING AMONG MERCHANTS.

A few days ago we gave a view of the present ion of the dry goods trade in this city, showing the effect of the decline in gold on prices and the general trade of the city. Since that time there has been a steady impro ement in trade, resulting from the more steady price of gold, the checking of the decline which had previously continued for some time without interruption, and from the marking down of goods to nform with the change of values. There are many buyers in town-though not so many as usual at this season-who are now ready to purchase stocks, but who waited until gold should apparently reach a firm basis. Among buyers there is considerable omparison of the present prices and those ruling before the war. A few articles are now selling as cheaply as at that time, some in fact even cheaper, when the price of the raw material and the increased rates of duty are

taken into consideration.

We give below a record of the comparative prices of staple dry goods at the beginning of 1861 (the prices be ing those of the first week in January of that year) and at present. From this record it will be noticed that a large reduction must yet take place to make the greater portion of dry goods as low as before the war. But it must always be remembered that the cost of labor, the cost of building factories and constructing machinery, the rates of duty, and the prices of raw materials, are very much greater now than in 1861, and that much tim must pass before these items of cost can be made to con respond with those of ante-war times, even with gold at par and specie payments resumed.

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Dannella 9 0	111	314	Amnakeag, B	13	- 2
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Wamsutta	13	214	Amoskesz	10	- 1
Tuacatora	124	18	Laconia	94	- 1
Bates	114	17	Naumkesg	93	1
Masonville	121	17	Pepperill	20	- 1
Hischstone	104	154	Bates	84	- 1
Wauregan	15	19	Indian Orchard	114	1
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than domestic, as they are more directly influenced by the reduction in the premium on gold. It is fair to presume that, with steadiness in the price of gold for an ength of time, prices of some articles which have been marked down too low will react. Hosiery is selling at very low figures, lower than the cost of importation wil justify, and must naturally return to a price that will pay the expense of importation and a silkin port to the importer. One standard kind of stocking is now actually selling at less than it could be imported for should gold be at par. Our merchants feel that all that is required to insure a good Spring trade is steadiness in the premium on gold.

ent week that the grand explosion took place, filling THE SECRETS OF HISTORY.

THE BATTLE OF NASHVILLE. NEW ISSUE-DID GEN. THOMAS BLUNDER IN HIS PLAN OF ATTACK ?

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: The letter in your issue of the 12th, by One who Fought at Nashville," is so wide of the facts n a variety of ways that it would be hardly worth while to reply to it, if the ex cathedra manner in which the statements are made did not convey the idea that the

writer is a competent witness in the case at issue, both as

to facts and opinions. The correspondent states that " the army at Nashville was one corps (4) of the Army of the Cumberland, the Twenty-third Corps, Army of the Ohio, A. J. Smith's two divisions, Army of the Tennessee, and mixed troops of various organizations, or no organization, and ne regiments; so that Thomas had but one corps (the Fourth) of his old army, and Schofield the same." The facts are, that in addition to the organizations above enumerated, there were: Steedman's division, number ing from 6,000 to 8,600 men, all of them belonging to the Army of the Cumberland, and which reached Nashville at about the same time with A. J. Smith's troops, and the cavalry under Gen. Wilson; all of which, but one division (Hatch's), belonged to the Army of the Cumber land proper. Moreover, the Twenty-third Corps, although a separate army, had long been under Gen Thomas's command, and was identified with the for tunes of the Army of the Cumberland. Gen. Schoffeld had commanded Gen. Thomas's old First Division of the Army of the Cumberland. The name and fame of the two armies is inseparable; and the Society of the Army of the Cumberland to-day includes in its membership

ren of the Army of the Ohio. All of the troops at Nashville, except the two corps infantry and the two divisions of cavalry which had been operating against Hood on the march from the Tennessee River to Nashville, were concentrated on the very day or subsequently to Hood's investment of Nashville. Cooper's Division reached Nashville only on the 7th of December. During the entire march of Hood's army from the moment Sherman commenced his march to th sea, until it recrossed the Tennessee so disorganized and demoralized that it never came together again, Gen. Thomas was in command not merely of the two corps in mediately with Schoffeld, but of all the troops in his De partment, consisting of the garrisons of Chattanooga, un der Steedman; North Alabama ! (Huntsville, Athens, under Gen. R. S. Granger: Murfreesbore under Rousseau; Johnsonville and North-Western R. M. under Gen C. R. Thompson, and the garrison at Nash-ville under Gen. J. F. Miller, as well as all the troops of the Military Division of the Mississippi not immediately

and recognizes as a part of its organization, their breth

The battle of Franklin, for the fighting of which ampl and unstinted credit should be given to Schofield, and or which no one would attempt to deprive him-was a scratch." It was fought from necessity and from n premeditated design. All the more credit to Schofield for his manful and determined bravery and success. far from its being true that " there was not the remotest esibility of this attacking Nashville," anybody who knows the facts will testify that Hood intended to attack on the 17th, two days after Thomas's movement put the dea out of his head.

It is true, that our troops "had been for some day lying quietly in their trenches," i. e. the infantry; but the quiet was a forced one, and due, as everybody there knows, to the weather; and moreover, the cavalry had been anything but "lying quietly," as up to the before the attack they had not been mounted in sufficien umber to be effective, and up to the very moment of attack the army transportation was not in such condition as to justify a movement. All these things were well known to the proper efficers, but for obvious reasons have not been mentioned in the reports or accounts of the battle hitherto. Ecsides, until he had crossed the Dutch River at Columbia, it was by no means certain what course Hood would adopt. It had been anticipated by Sherman that he would follow the course of the Union army through Georgia. Gen. Thomas was there fore compelled to keep his army in such position as to enable him to concentrate at Chattanooga, Decatur, or Nashville, as circumstances might require

All these things, however, are merely preliminary, and of little account compared with the serious charges hich follow. The writer of the letter goes on to say As to the plan of attack, in that Gen. Thomas made the only mistake it was possible that a man having any unit-tary knowledge, not to say experience, could make. * * *
The only practical question was as to the strength that should be given to the attacking force, or the number of on necessarily to be left comparatively idle, and in this Gen. Thomas made a mistake of fully 10,000 men! Upon this error being explained to him, he gave verbal orders for its correction so far as to place the surplus 10,000 men in reserve near the attacking force, where it lay idle from early in the morning until 3 o'clock in the afternoon." ore ignorance and misstatement than is here contained to the same number of words. The plan of attack was for our left to make a strong demonstration, while the eavalry on the right should gain the enemy's left flank and rear, and the other troops should press any opportunity that might offer, A.J. Smith's troops being our right infantry—then the Fourth Corpswith Schofield's Twenty-third Corps in reserve, and Steedman's Division on the left. Everybody at the battle emembers that a very dense fog overhung the valleys nd hillsides on the morning of the 15th of December, so hat the movement which would have been made with gor by the cavalry at daylight, if clear, was made lowly and cautiously until as late as 8 or 9 o'clock, A.J. mith could not move until the cavalry had commenced their flank attack. Steedman's division on the left, having an open country in front, moved first and drove back the thin line opposing it a mile or two before any other attack was commenced, making a very formidable emonstration of what was intended only as a feint, and carrying and occupying points beyond what had been anticipated in the plan of battle, thus shortening both our own and the enemy's line, and practically deciding what should be done with the re-Gen. Thomas received the information of Steedman's unexpected progress after 8 o'clock, and the officer who conveyed it to him rode for a very considerable distance with Knipe's Idivision of cavalry, the division supporting and cooperating with Hatch's diision in advance, but at that time linvisible on accounof the fog. Gen. Thomas's headquarters were on the nost advanced point of our lines, on a high hill, almost immediately in the rear of the junction of Smith's left, and the right of the Fourth Corps. Smith's troops had got outside of their works, but had not made any movement. When the fog had pretty much cleared away, and revealed the whole field from the hill where Gen Thomas was stationed, the skirmishers of the Fourth Corps began to push to the front, and in a few minutes the enemy's artillery opened with a good deal of vigor. Presently musketry was heard along Sroth's right, and an aid sent down to see how things were going. He found Smith delayed by the difficulties of crossing Richland, or some other of the creeks that flowed along the front parallel to the enemy's main line, where the passage was disputed. Soon after, not far from 10 o'clock, one of the divisions of the Fourth Corps, by a splendid assault, carried Montgomery Hill, to the right of the Hillsboro Pike-the advanced salient of the enemy. This permitted a readjustment of the lines, so as to make our front line considerably shorter; and also demonstrated-in connection with the successful movement of Steedman on the left, that the line there formed was strong enough to take care of itself without further aid of the Twenty-third Corps as a reserve.

At about the same time word was brought to Gen. Thomas that the cavalry had taken a greater distance toward the enemy's rear than was anticipated, and that Smith's right did not immediately connect with him, and orders were at once given to send the Twenty-third Corps to Smith's right, so as to give the cavalry full swing, without endangering Smith's right by leaving a gap between them. This is the simple truth of what the writer declares was a mistake of 10,000 men. " Upon this error being explained to him," says the ingenious writer, he gave verbal orders for its correction, so far as to place the surplus 10,000 men in reserve near the attacking force." What the precise mistake was the writer does not clearly point out, unless it be a mistake to win greater and arlier success than anticipated, and to modify plan ecordingly. But it is the first time in military history when keeping on hand a large reserve is called at error," the notification of the successful result of plane is called "explaining an error," and the movemen made in consequence of such information is called " the

If ever battle was fought " without material modification" of the plan and order of proceeding, the battle, of Nashville was so fought. It became at once the com-

correction of an error."

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1870.-TRIPLE SHEET. mon remark that the history of the battle could be read by changing the tense in the order from the future to th past. So well was it planned, and so scientifically and thoroughly was the plan carried out, that to-day it is made a study at the Military Academy among the great

> It is not true that in the evening after the first day's battle Gen. Thomas believed that Hood was in full retreat, at least in the sense in which the writer intends it to be understood. His dispatches to Gen. Grant and Gen. Halleck show this. No steps were taken by Gen. Thomas, nor any orders given which would imply this. He returned to Nashville after dark, and made his headquarters for the night at the St. Cloud Hotel, as usual. In his report he says, "Preparations were made to renew the battle at an early hour on the morrow." Gen. Scho field, in his report of the battle, says: "On the night of the 15th I waited upon the Major-General Commanding at his headquarters and received his orders for the pur suit of the enemy on the following day." Gen. A. J. Smith says nothing to indicate any such idea as the letter-writer gives out. On advancing his line in the morn ing it was discovered that the enemy had taken position at the base of Brentwood Hills. Gen. Wilson, commanding cavalry, says, "Orders were issued for the continuance of operations the next day." Gen. Steedman says "At 6 a. m., in obedience to the orders of Major-Gen Thomas, my command moved on the enemy's works. The report of Gen. Wood, commanding the Fourth Corps, is not at hand. Moreover, on riding toward the battl field the next morning (16th), Gen. Thomas, before reach ing the lines, pointed out the place for his headquarters This does not look much that night. belief that Hood was in full retreat. On the contrary, quite the reverse. The extracts given above disprove also the assertion that so sure was Gen. Thomas that the fight was over that he could not be induced to give orders to renew the attack in the morning," and that "consequently many of the troops lay idle until late in the day." It is true that no formal written orders for the attack were issued; but verbal orders were given. And, moreover, Gen. Thomas had that confidence in the skill and ability of his corps manders that he did not deem it necessary to give any further orders than might be requisite to continue the movement so auspiciously begun on the preceding day. More than once he expressed his pleasure at having his troops commanded by officers of such merit that he did not have to be giving them orders constantly, know ing that they could carry out details without his inter

erence or direction. "It is more than probable that if the attack had been nade in the morning, none of Heed's artillery or infantry could have escaped across the Harpeth," says this most astounding writer. An attack was made, in the morning by the Fourth Corps, near the Franklin Pike, but with out any effective results. An attack was made about son on the extreme left of our line, and repulsed. The cavalry was attacking and driving the enemy's heavy skirmish-line from early in the morning, and the moment they reached a position on the flank and rear, where their operations could be made effective, the attack along the infantry line was made. Of course "many of the roops lay idle until late in the day," as is always the case in every battle-except perhaps Stone River and Chickamanga, in which the Army of the Cumberland was engaged from Mill Spring to Nashville The only slowness and idieness that produced any important result is that shown in the following extract from Gen. Schefield's report: "My order was not excuted with the promptness or energy I had expected; and the following from Gen. A. J. Smith's report; "Abou o'clock p. m. Gen. McArthur sent word that he could arry the hill on his right by assault. Major-Gen. Thomas being present, the matter was referred to him. and I was requested to delay the movement until he could hear from Gen. Schofield, to whom he had sent Gen. McA., not receiving any reply, and fearing the attack should be longer delayed the enemy would use the night to strengthen his works, directed a brigade sform the hill." The result was that the enemy were whipped, broken, and demoralized." Gen. Schoffeld eports his total loss in the battles of the 15th and 16th at killed and 15t wounder

After the battle, the pursuit was made by the cavalry long the main road, while the infantry was compelled to follow after, so slowly as that a corps could not move its longth in three days" says this writer. As there were only three roads which could be followed in any pursuitthe Franklin, Granny White, and Hillsboro, (pikes)as the Fourth Corps moved on the Franklin Pike, the rest of the infantry following Hatch's Division of cavairy on the Granny White, and Johnson's Division on the Hill the Granny White, and Jonneous Division on the Indi-oros, it is difficult to see the point five unless below brankin, a distance of about 25 miles, on the lith, and drove the enemy from their positions; while the Fourth Corps and Steedman's Division reached Franklin—is to Corps and Steedman's Division reached Franklin—is 20 miles from Newbrille—that night. The cavalry next day reached Rutherford's Creek, 40 miles fr Nashville, and the infantry closed up with it. On the I Schofield and Smith reached Spring Hill, 35 miles fr Nashville, and on the night of the 20th the infantry vance reached Columbia, 42 miles. If this is march "so slowly that a Corps could not move its length three days," the Corps with which the writer march must have straggled more than Sherman's human.

The next point of the writer is that the pontoon train Thomas; but it is not true that this order created any essential delay, or produced any disastrous result. It was one of those blumders which is indeed ridiculous, but not harmful, for it was so early countermanded the next day that the train had gone but a short distance, and soon reached the main column by a cross road. The real trouble was that the weather was so cold that the only regiment which had been trained on pontoon duty was soon used up by the excessive labor and chill—and so the train was of little practical good. The pontoons which belonged to Gen. Thomas had been taken by Gen. Sternam for his march through Georgia, he taking his pick of whatever and whoever suited him. Consequently, a nontoon had to be hastily constructed at Nashville during the delay, and troops hurriedly and imperfectly drilled in its use.

"The result of all this was, that Hood made good his retreat across the Tenuessee River, with more than to

"The result of all this was, that Hose than retreat across the Tennessee River, with more than pieces of artillery, much the larger portion of his trainand nearly all his men who had not been killed or call the trenches at Nashville." So says the write Here are the facts: Hood crossed the Tenness River, on his advance to Nashville, with 90 piece of artillery. These were captured and turned ow to the ordnance officer, 72 pieces, all but 8 which were taken on the 15th and 16th of December. Nashville, Over 13,000 prisoners were captured, 2,5

River, on his advance to Nashville, with 90 pieces of artillery. These were captured and turned over to the ordnance officer. 72 pieces, all but 8 of which were taken on the 15th and 15th of Docember at Nashville, over 13,000 prisoners were captured, 2,200 Hebels deserted, and some 3,000 were killed at Franklin and Nashville; a total of 18,200 who miss than two-thirds were killed or captured in the trenches at Nashville. There were also destroyed during the campaign 315 wagons, with their supplies, 75 pontoon boats, and 500 moles belonging to the enemy.

The writer also endeavors to convey the idea that Gen. Thomas thought that the driving of Hood across the Tennessee River was all that was requisite, and that he at once intended to lie still in Winter quarters, and at his leisure develop a "plan for a campaign during the Summer after the close of the war." Unfortunately for him, the facts do not sustain his insinuations. It is true that, on finding the enemy had escaped across the Tennessee. "a disheartened and disorganized rabbie of half-armod and barefooted men," Gen. Thomas announced, on the other hands of the campaign, and directed the troops to so into Winter quarters. They had fairly carned, by their ardious labors and almost constant fighting since the 1st of November, a right to a short respite during the dreary Winter mouths in that locality, and, so far as Gen. Thomas was concerned, there was nothing for them to do, and no organized enemy either in the Department of the Cumberland of the Military Division of the Mississippi. But Gen. Grant had use for them—and so the order was immediately countermanded, and the troops concentrated, instead of being scattered—though it is not very plan to see how it could make any essential difference for the intended movements of the General-in-Chief whether Schoffeld was at Columbia or Dalton—whether the Pourth Corps was at Huntsville and Athens, or at Huntsville alone, and whether Wison was not observed the converse of Gen. Thomas had planued a campaign for the eav

BOSTON.

LITERARY, ART, AND OTHER GOSSIP. NEW BOOKS AND BOOKS TO COME—YOUNG AU-THORS RISING TO SUCCESS—STATUES AND PICTURES—A JOURNALISTIC DINNER—A THE-ATRICAL QUARREL-SOCIAL SCIENCE ENTER-

PRISES. Boston, March 17 .- The times are brightening up; that is to say, I cannot speak for the account books and balance sheets, but there is more news and gossip of literary and art matters floating in the air than usual,

and I send you a full budget. Messrs. Roberts Brothers have published the only book now recall as issued here since my last letter, in Arthur Helps's "Casimir Maremma," a novel which, notwithstanding the Oriental name of its hero, is devoted to the solid subject of the emigration question as it presents it self to philosophers in the crowded districts of England, and yet lively and fascinating as a novel, with some deli cate and skillful character-drawing. They are preparing to issue on the 20th Miss Frothingham's hexameter trans lation of Goethe's Idyl, of which I have spoken herete fore, and on the 1st of April, Miss Louisa M. Alcott's semi-juvenile novel, "An Old-Fashloned Girl." Of this latter book they are printing the extraordinary first edition of 10,000 cepies, three fourths of the number being in answer to advance orders. They have engraved four very pretty pictures for the book, and are confident that t will command a success similar to that attained by 'Little Women," which it closely resembles in style. The book is to be issued simultaneously in London, ilius trations and all, by Sampson Low & Son. Miss Alcott

trations and all, by Sampson Low & Son. Miss Alcottays in her preface:

"The 'Old Fashioned Girl' is not intended as a perfect model, but as a possible improvement upon the Girl of the Period, who seems sorrowfully ignorant or ashamed of the good old fashions which make woman truly beautiful and honored, and through her render home what it should be—a happy place, where parents and children, brothers and sisters, learn to love and know and help one another."

Rather an unusual compliment is that paid to an American editor of the essays of an English writer by Sampson Low & Son, who have sent from London for an edition of Messrs Roberts Brothers' volume, Leigh Hunt's " Day by the Fire and Other Papers," for the English market.

Gail Hamilton's plucky, unwise, snappy little book out, and we are told by the advertisements-issued in the lady publisher's own name, though she herself is sojourning in Washington-that the first edition is already exhausted and the second rapidly making ready. I observe that many of the newspapers, in noticing the book, say that it would be unjust to pronounce an opinion upon the matters in controversy until the publishers so bitterly attacked shall have been heard in their own defense. I think there is no ground for the assumption that the house is likely to take any steps to meet or resent this assault. They will rather rest their own reputation and the manifest disqualification of their accuser by reason of temper and prejudice, and so let the gale blow itself out. By the way, the drollest thing I find in the book, after all the author's own sharp sayings and witty stories have been fully enjoyed and digested, is an error of the writer's guide, philosopher and friend, "Mr. Dane," a well known member of the Boston bar. He explains his remark that the wholesale price of books "is 40 per cent off the retail," by adding the illustration that "a book that retails at \$1 40 is wholesaled at \$1." The blunder is commonplace enough not to be noticed, but for the lofty strain in which Mr. Dane continues : "Pardon me, but I never imagine that a woman comprehends what per cent means!" After this, some of the champions of the make a point of this grand assumption on a small basis in a hundred lectures through the country. It might be done without compunctions of conscience as to Gail Hamilton's friendship for the unhappy gentleman to be held up as a horrid example, for she has never, with all her masculinity and independence, taken up arms for the enfranchisement of her sex, but has been a powerful influence on the other side.

Messrs, Fields, Osgood & Co. will publish on Saturday the volume on "Miracles Past and Present," by the Rev. William Mountford, announced some time ago. It turns out to be in fact a work on spiritualism, in which Mr. Mountford is a firm believer, but on a very different plane from most of the spiritualistic books written here during the past decade. It is a book of clear, vigorous thought, with no vagueness about it, written by a man who sees in the miracles of the Old Testament and the New, the feats of Eastern magicians, and the phenomena of spiritualism in our own day, something of kinship, and who looks forward to the utter disappearance of the material disbelieving spirit of the present before another generation has passed away.

The same publishers have given to the printers at last

the fifth and final volume of their collection of Thackeray's "Miscellanies," for which they and their agents have been for months mousing about among ancient and forgotten English periodical literature, in order to make it as nearly complete as possible. They have gathered many things not in the elegant Smith & Elder edition completed in London within a year, and the circles of shipers will turn with eagerness to the few from the master's hand. The task has not been easy, and has consumed a great deal of time beyond that at first set for the appearance of the book. It includes "Catherine," the "Christmas Books" and the "Ballads" which are in the English octaves; and the new things are mainly essays contributed to Fraser in the days of Thackeray's youth and before the days of his fame. Many of them are in the form of letters to "Oliver Yorke," the editor. One budget is called "Titmarsh among Pictures and Books," and contains several pieces of art criticism, "Strictures on Pictures," "Our Annual Execution," "A Pictorial Rhapsody," "On Men and Pictures;" and a number of literary critiques on " A Box of Novels,"" About a Christmas Book," "On some Illustrated Children's Books," "A Grumble about the Christmas Books," and so forth. In one of these papers occurs Thackeray's first warm, hearty praise of Dickens, then still known popularly as Boz," whom he calls "the master of all the English humorists now alive; the young man who came and took his place calmly at the head of the whole tribe." was written apropos of the "Christmas Carol," and there are references in the later essays to "The Cricket on the Hearth," and others of Mr. Dickens's books as they came out. Then the volume contains a bunch of " Fraser Miscellanies," such as "Fashnable Fax and Polite Anny goats," the delicious "Memorials of Gormandizing," which the English editor strangely omitted, though Mr Fields had already brought it to the light in the " Early and Late Papers,"" Grant in Paris," and " Laman Blanch volume has also seven "Selections from Punch," beginning with "Meditations on Solitude," and "A Roundabout Ride," written in 1888, long before the "Roundabout Papers" were thought of, and ending with a bit of fun suggested by the early advertisements of "Palmer's

Another of the hiterary enterprises of Messrs. Fields, Osgood & Co. which has not yet been announced, is the reissue of their edition of Thackeray in a new form, called the "Illustrated Library Edition. They have engraved the principal original illustraions from the novelist's own pencil, not the initial letters and little scattered cuts in the text, but the full page pictures, to the number of from thirty to fifty to a novel, and by using thicker paper than in their 'Household" edition will make a very pretty volume, neatly bound, for the book-shelves of those who do not object to rather fine type and double columns. They will issue the novels during the Spring, two each month. and then follow them up with the " Miscellanies," making a complete edition-the most complete in print-in eleven

volumes for twenty-two dollars. The critics have hardly begun to deal with " Hedged in" as yet, but the impetus of the fame of " The Gates Ajar," the general reputation of the author, and the a traction of the style and the subject, have given it a wonderfully good start, so that nine editions, representing about twelve thousand copies, have already been sold. And apropos of the subject of " Hedged In," it seems that it is attractive to writers as well as to readers. I am informed that the editor of a certain popular magazine finds that of the contributions of women which he is obliged to reject, nine-tenths treat of this very topic of the restoration of those of their sex once stained by sin.

A cruel report has been started that The North American Review is in a moribund condition. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is no intention whatever of discontinuing the sturdy quarterly, which in fact never was on a better basis, financially, than now. Its circulation is not immense, but it is stable; and there is every likelihood that The Review has at least as long and norable a career to look forward to as that upon which it looks back.

The principal poem in the April number of Old and New is a rather long parrative piece, "The Queen and Elisor," by Frederic Wadsworth Loring. It suggests an

admiration for William Morris, and aims too high to do its author justice. I wish he might have made his first appearance before the general reading public with some hing more fairly displaying his abilities; for when the observing Bostonian looks about among the rising generation to catch the first gleams of the genius which may be only the glow-worm of a night or may prove the lighthouse to which all men shall turn a dozen or twenty years hence, he sees few whose promise seems to have brighter or steadier glow than this same Mr. Loring. Yet only a senior in Harvard College, his writings have hitherto appeared mainly in The Harvard Advocate, though of late he has discovered the folly of a universal application of the maxim, "Base is the slave that pays," and has found that even verses may be sold for gold, so that his muse has vouchsafed contributions to The Daily Adtertiser and Commercial Bulletin. His forte, or the forte of his youth thus far, is in vers de societé, and he has written some little things, celebrating young love with a tenderness flavored with a certain cool humor, which might have been done by Thackeray, in that fresh, earnest, enthusiastic stage of his literary life which he depicts in Arthur Pendennis. The newspapers have caught up some of these trifles,—such as "Love in an Apple Tree," and " Courting and Cooking,"-and given them a circu tion as wide as the country. If Mr. Loring's talent is uvenile it is also versatile, for he has also written within the last few months a raudeville for the stage, which has een accepted at Selwyn's, and will be brought out there in a week or two. It is called "The Wild Rose," and is a light affair, in two acts, calling upon only a few members of the company, and those the best artists. It is Frenchy but not French, being entirely original, except that the names of the characters are adapted from a French novel. Those who have read the piece think; it contains the elements of success, with good treatment from the actors, and that it will have quite a little run of its own. It is a puzzling, yet a fascinating business, this looking about among the coits just entered for the race of life, to

use the metaphor employed by Dr. Holmes in one of his 'Autocrat" poems, and wondering and guessing which will be among the first favorites at the distant mile posts. And in connection with this reflection let me mention how one young Boston writer has struck into a new road for fame by contributing to the English periodicals of the highestliterary grade. In the number of Frascr to arrive by the next steamer will be a paper on "The Practical Workings of the Ballot in the United States"-a subject in which the English Liberals take a very deep interestby Mr. John T. Morse, jr., who has written other things for that magazine under Mr. Froude's management, and has contributed essays to The Saturday Review. In legal literature Mr. Morse's name is not unknown in his own country, for he has had papers in The Law Review, and has lately published an octavo on "The Laws of Bank ing and Currency;" but, as newspaper leaders are impersonal, and do not count for reputation, it is likely that the general public in America will first learn of the remarable vigor and clearness of his prose, the grasp of his thought and crispness of his expression, through the praises which will come from the other side of the Atlan. tic. But Mr. Morse is a lawyer, and perhaps will not stick to literature long enough to achieve what he might by concentrating his effort there.

A book sale is to take place in this city in April, rather

remarkable in some respects, and especially interesting in its catalogue. It was at first set for the 5th to the 8th; but the New-England Fast coming on one of these days, it has been put a week later. This is the collection of the late Mr. Henry Stevens of Barnet, Vermont, the sale being under the control of his son of the same name who innerits his father's taste for books, and has for equality of the sexes, mathematical and political, ought many years been one of the working members of the staff of the British Museum. The elder Mr. Stevens with strong antiquarian tastes, was founder of an historical society in his State, and collected in his rural home about five thousand books and manuscripts mainly relating to the history and hterature of North and South America. They are in many languages, and a large proportion treat of the very early voyages of Eu ropean discoverers, and have never been offered for sale in this country before. The son has combined business with pleasure by making the catalogue of the sale also a monument to his father's memory, as well as a receptacle for much of his own learning. The result is a thoroughly unique pamphiet, elegant in typography, marked by many eccentricities, and enlivened by a quaint humor which pervades the whole of the odd introduction, and is continually popping upon the reader in the catalogue proper. It is a curiosity of literature, not to be described in a paragraph. The editorial corps and chiefs of the mechanical de-partments of The Daily Advertiser sat down to a very de-

lightful social dinner on Saturday last, Mr. Waters, the publisher and largest owner, presiding as host. The paper is "going on" 60 years old, and there may have been such occasions before in its history; but there have been none at least within the memory of the present generation of attaches of the paper, and one of them, the foreman of the composing-room, can look back over an unbroken connection of 37 years. The joys of the feast were not for the public ear; but one of the reminiscences which came out there, as it reaches me, is too agreeable and too suggestive of the primitive days of Everett Hale-who was present as representative of the family so long identified with the paper, and had as such a place of honor by the editor-in-chief, Mr. Goddard -spoke of the social spirit existing in the infancy of the paper, in the days of his own infancy and before his birth. Then Mr. Nathan Hale used to take his notes o the Convention which formed the present Constitution of Massachusetts home to the family nursery. There his wife, literally rocking the cradle as she worked wrote out from her husband's dictation those reports which have since been accepted the standard and issued in several editions. There the printer boys from the office came to get their copy There the young erator, Daniel Webster, and others of the leading debaters of the deliberative body, came to correct the proofs of their speeches, while the cradle still rocked on. And when the Convention had done its work and adjourned, the housewife, cradle-tender and amanuensis celebrated the completion of the work on the part of the journal by sending down to the compositors a plentiful supply of wedding cake, the mottoes in which were made of notable cuttings from the speches in the debates. That feast, Mr. Hale thought, might stand as the legitimate predecessor of that of last Saturday. And indeed, I think there are very few journals in the country, certainly none in Boston, in which such an capral du corps is preserved, in which there is such good feeling between the different departments, in which the traditions of the elders are regarded with so much respect, preserving a uniformity of character not readily to be matched, as in this same venerable Duily Advertiser never so young in all the essentials of a vigorous youth

Mr. Martin Milmore, our leading resident sculptor, has but just begun the small clay model for the horse in his estrian statue of Col. Shaw, the commander of our first colored regiment and the hero of Fort Wagner, but the idea in the artist's mind is complete, and doubtless the finished bronze will before many months adorn the terrace of the State-House. The rough sketch in clay of the horse seems to me exceedingly spirited. Mr Milmore is engaged also upon busts of Wendeli Phillips, Henry Wilson, George S. Boutwell, and Oliver Ditson, our veteran music publisher, and upon a statuette of Mr. Amos A. Lawrence. But of all the works I saw in my visit to the artist's studio, nothing impressed me so favorably as a design for a group for the front of a lite nsurance building, embodying in a very striking manner the idea of protection to the widow and the orphan. There is a wonderful combination of imagination, grace, and strength in the design, and the city will be fortunate

which secures the statue among its ornaments. Mr. E. T. Billings has finished a portrait of Wendell Phillips as he stands before an audience, for the Mechan-ics' Hall at Worcester, which is becoming quite a gallery of portraits of the eminent Americans of our own day. Not all our artists spend the Winter in the snug warmtb of their studios. Mr. Ben. Champuey has but lately returned from a Winter's residence to Conway, where painters, cluster like bees in the Summer; and Mr. Thos, Hill, having finished his great picture of a Storm in the

Notch, has donned his snow-shoes and taken a ten days'

tramp through the White Mountains. Not to allow the memory of the cheerful obsequies of the great millionaire to be entirely lost with the interment of his bones, Mr. E. Nortou, one of our marin painters, has completed a picture of the "Funeral Fleet," which is already on public exhibition.

A unique and remarkable exhibition has just been opened here, in the painting of the Battle of Gettys burg, executed by Mr. James Walker, under the direction of Mr. J. B. Bacheider. The moment of the repulse of Longstreet's assault & commemorated in the picture. It is a long and narrow canvas, almost panoram shape, and the exhibitor is able to point out on demand any one of three hundred regiments, and sixty or seventy